

## Invitation to Participate in a Study to Develop a Survey Measure of Care Quality and Coordination for People with Disabilities

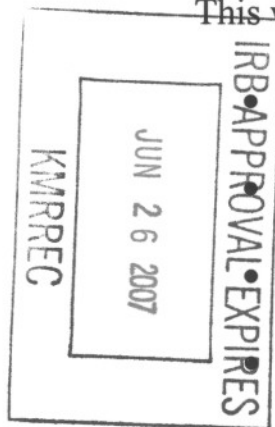
We are conducting a research study on the topic of access, coordination, and quality of care for people with disabilities, beginning with people with spinal cord injuries. Dr. Karen Hwang and Dr. Mark Johnston are Principal Investigators of the study.

At present there is no standardized, validated way of assessing whether people with disabilities in the community are receiving quality long term health care. We need people with SCI and other disabilities to provide their opinion, based on their own experiences and their estimation of the issues faced by other people with disabilities.

The goal of this research study is to develop a pilot instrument to evaluate access, coordination, and quality of continuing care for people with disabilities. In a future study we intend to use the instrument to measure quality of care in different regions and to evaluate the effects of efforts to improve care.

Participants can be **SCI any level**, and **any time post-discharge**.

This will be your opportunity to provide us with your assessment of:



Access to needed care, scheduling and receiving services when you need them;

Evaluation of primary care doctors and specialists: how well do different providers communicate with you – and with each other?

How confident do you feel to manage your care? Have difficulties in health care coordination affected your general health status?

How sensitive are existing surveys of health care quality to the concerns of SCI and other disabilities?

- How can the system be improved?

Groups will meet for about 60-90 minutes, and participants will receive \$35.

If interested, please contact:

- Melissa Dolese, Research Assistant at 1-800-248-3221 x 6876.
- Karen Hwang, EdD, (973) 324-3566